(b) and (c) The onus of complying with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous provisions Act, 1952 is on the establishment falling under the ambit of the Act. However, in many cases the establishments do not properly discharge their provident fund liabilities and actions in such matters is taken in accordance with the relevant provisions provided for in the Act to meet such eventualities. Whenever any case of default or evasion of provident fund membership being facilitated by the collusion of the official of Empolyees' Provident Fund Organisation comes to notice, necessary corrective and punitive actions are taken. Since the last one year, EPF has introduced computerized default monitoring which has helped to plug the loopholes.

Welfare of the Labourers in Unorganised Sector

2441. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken any steps to ensure the welfare of the labourers in unorganized sectors such as agriculture, small hotels and dhabas, textiles, leather etc;

(b) if so, the various welfare measures taken by Government for the unorganized workers in agriculture and other sectors during the last three years; and

(c) the number of people covered under these programmes, during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has taken several steps to ensure the welfare and social security of workers in the unorganised sector. A number of legislations have been enacted viz., the Maternity Benefits Act, 1961; the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; the Employees, Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 which are also applicable to workers in the unorganized sector including those engaged in small hotels, dhabas, textiles, leather, etc.

The Government has launched "Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001", a social security scheme for the agricultural workers which is being implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 50 identified districts in the country to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers during its first phase of three years. Among various benefits available under this scheme are insurance coverage, money-back and pension after attaining the age of 60 years. Janshree Bima Yojana launched in August, 2000 envisages to provide life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor including those engaged in agriculture, small hotels, dhabas etc., between the age group of 18--60 years who are below and marginally above the poverty line.

The Government is also implementing a number of Plan schemes through various Ministries/ Departments like Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Sampooran Gramin Rojgar Yojana for rural workers, Work-shed-cum-Housing Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Health Package Scheme, Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers and Insurance Scheme for Khadi Workers. Further, the benefits under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY), National Slum Development Programme are also available to the urban poor including unorganised workers in the country.

Closure of Industries

2442. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred Question 860 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether there is no system of maintaining records of the industries which are closed without taking Government's prior permission; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to streamline the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) All Industries do not statutorily have to take prior permission of the appropriate Government under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 before closure. Only industries covered under Chapter V B have to do so. It is, therefore, not possible to maintain records of all industries that are closed without taking Government's prior permission.